

## The Augusta Coin Club since 1959

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and Joe Bert



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Volume 18, Number 12

THE AUGUSTA COIN CLUB MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

December, 2018

**Our Next Meeting is Thurs, Dec, 20 at 6:30 PM, early arrivals, 6:00 PM**

## Finger food and desserts Scheduled for Dec. 20 Meeting

### Club Meeting Calendar for 2018

Jan. 18	May 17	Sep. 20
Feb. 15	June 21	Oct. 18
Mar. 15	July 19	Nov. 15
Apr. 19	Aug. 16	<b>Dec. 20</b>

### Club Holds another Successful Fall Show



The Bourse was busy both days at the Nov. 2018 club coin show

Since 2003, our club has been holding spring and fall shows annually thanks to the efforts of our General Show Chairman and past club president, David Chism, also with the assistance of President Steven Nix and the many members who volunteered to serve at the welcoming desk. Ever since we moved to the Columbia County Expo Center, our shows have increased in public attendance along with the number of tables sold, this time, a record 75 with 37 dealers taking part. From all accounts, the 2018 fall show was well attended both days. At this event, four of the five raffle drawings were won by our members starting with Everett Price who won the 1<sup>st</sup> prize 1/10 oz. US gold eagle. The 2<sup>nd</sup> prize, a MS-63 Morgan dollar was won by Mike Moosari. The third prize, a 2015 silver proof set was won by member Burles Johnson. The fourth prize, a 2016 MS-69 certified silver eagle was won by our 1<sup>st</sup> VP and auctioneer, Glenn Sanders and the fifth and finale raffle prize, an 1962 MS-65 Franklin silver half-dollar was won by member Elaine Attaway. Perry Bertolone was the postcard winner.

### Collecting Better Date US Coins

By Arno Safran



An 1808 Classic Head large cent graded VF-25  
[Enlarge page to 150% to 200% to view image more clearly.]

Better date coins are not as scarce as the key date pieces of a series but they can still be pricey if not as expensive. Take the lovely 1808 Classic Head large cent shown above, for example. The type was designed by Asst. Chief Engraver John Reich and struck from 1808 thru 1814 inclusive. The three odd numbered dates tend to be scarcer than the four even numbered dates but all seven dates of the series are scarce to rare from VF-35 and higher. The nice thing about this type is that VF-20 to 25 graded copper coins can still appear attractive.

The reported mintage for the 1808 issue was a tad over one million and is considered a common date although not as common as the 1810, 1812 or 1814. The 1814 had a reported mintage of just 357,830, the third lowest but is considered the most available today. The short series was produced during the period leading up to and throughout the War of 1812 between the still fairly young United States and Great Britain.

Thomas Jefferson was serving his second term as 3<sup>rd</sup> President. During this time frame the US Mint in Philadelphia received their copper planchets from Matthew Bolton's Manufactory in Soho-Birmingham, England and with the English navy raiding American ships at sea, hostilities soon developed making it difficult to receive decent copper blanks from the other side of the Atlantic Ocean. More often than not, the planchets for the copper coins arrived black and corroded due to improper storage in the damp holds of the British ships, with the result that collectors today have a hard time locating attractive chocolate-toned pieces with decent surfaces such as the coin shown above.



Thomas Jefferson

(Continued on page 2, column 1)

## Collecting Better Date Coins

(Continued from the preceding page)



An 1819 large size Capped Bust quarter graded VF-20 by ANACS  
[Enlarge page to 150% to 200% to view image more clearly.]

If the coin shown above looks somewhat familiar to the reader, it should, but it is not the same date that appeared on the front page of the October, 2018 issue. That was an 1821 large size Capped Bust quarter graded VF-25 by NGC. What makes this coin so interesting despite its grade of just VF-20 is the die variety. It's listed as a **B-1** variety. The B stands for earlier Bust quarter attributer A.W. Browning. The **R5** is considered to be a very scarce variety based on the grading scale of 1-8 with 1 being the most common and 8, the rarest. The reported mintage for the 1819 quarter was 144,000, a big drop from the 361,174 struck for the 1818. Steve Tomkins, author of *Early United States Quarters: 1796-1838* claims that "the Mint could only produce coins from the bullion deposited and for 4 to 5 months no substantial deposits (of silver) ware received".

Of the four known varieties for the 1819, the obverses of the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> have a **large 9** in the date and a **square base 2 and fancy top 5** for 25c on the reverse while the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> varieties have a **small 9** in the date and a **curl based 2 and flat top 5** for 25 cents. As for the actual identifying areas that demonstrate that the B-1 shown above is the rarest of the four varieties for the 1819 quarter, Tomkins provides a number of detailed photos at the bottom of the page that show various positions of the stars to certain features of Liberty on the obverse along with the relationship to the letters in the legend, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA and the **motto E PLURIBUS UNUM** in smaller letters directly underneath. When it comes to acquiring early US type, the collector must gradually build up a library of books describing the subtle details. James Monroe was serving his first term as our fifth president when the 1819 quarter was struck.



James Monroe



1837 Half-dimes, LM-4 small 5c and LM-5, large 5c on reverse  
[Enlarge page to 150% to 200% to view image more clearly.]

In 1837, both the half-dime and dime were struck with the Capped Bust design before they were replaced by the Liberty seated *no stars* type later in the year. The reported mintage for the 1837 Capped Bust half-dime was just 871,000, the lowest of the nine year series. Only one of the five varieties of the Cap Bust version was punched with the small 5 in five cents on the reverse (the LM-4 seen at left).

It is much scarcer than the large 5 in five cents on the reverse shown on the right both at the bottom of column 1 and on the enlarged detail shown directly below.



Detail of 1837 Bust half-dimes reverses showing the scarce Small 5 in 5c at left and the more common large 5 in 5c at right  
(Courtesy of PCGS' COINFACTS and Heritage Auction Archives)

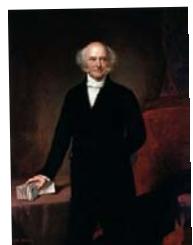
In 2013, while surfing the internet, the author came across the certified example of the 1837 scarcer small 5c Capped Bust half-dime shown on the lower left side of the preceding column. It was certified AU-58 by PCGS with the **CAC** sticker of approval attached to the slab. (*CAC are the initials for Certified Acceptance Corporation. It was formed to essentially certify the certifiers.*) At the time, the author considered the asking price expensive but it has almost doubled in price in the five years since its acquisition. The more common 1837 large 5c on reverse was acquired two years later again off the internet certified AU-55 and while more attractive due to the lighter toning, cost half as much. Both acquisitions are considered better dates for those interested in the series of half-dimes.

At the time these two capped Bust dime types were produced, Andrew Jackson was nearing the end of his second term as 7<sup>th</sup> president, the most controversial political figure since Aaron Burr. The man who succeeded his illustrious predecessor as 8<sup>th</sup> president on March 4,



Andrew Jackson

1837 was Martin Van Buren. Within five weeks the latter was faced with the second worst Depression in US History, known as "The Panic of 1837."

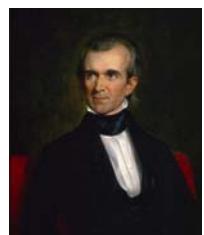


Martin Van Buren



An 1848 Liberty Seated quarter, Var. 2 graded XF-40 by PCGS  
[Enlarge page to 150% to 200% to view image more clearly.]

In 1848, The Mexican War ended with the US victorious. That same year, only 146,000 Liberty Seated quarters were struck at the Philadelphia mint with none being coined at the New Orleans facility and the coin is considered an R-5 in XF and AU and an R-7 in mint state. The coin shown is "original" and well struck. James Knox Polk was serving as our eleventh US president and satisfied by his results, chose not to run for reelection.



James Knox Polk

(Continued on page 3, column 1)

## Collecting Better Date Coins

(Continued from the preceding page)



Uncirculated 1853 *no arrows* and *with arrows* Lib. Std. dimes  
[Enlarge page to 150% to 200% to view image more clearly.]

The discovery of gold in California in 1848 affected the ratio of silver to gold in the ensuing years with the result that silver was being removed from circulation because its value in relation to gold had increased above its face value. To correct the problem, Congress enacted a law in 1853 that allowed for a slight decrease in the weight of our silver coinage except for the dollar which hardly circulated. The law was passed on February 21 but only after a small number of no arrows half-dimes, dimes and quarters plus only four 1853-O halves had been struck thereby creating some instant rarities for the half-dollar and quarter along with **better date** sub-types for the half-dime and dime. In early 1853, the Philadelphia Mint had already struck 95,000 Liberty Seated dimes with *no arrows* at the date but after the Act became law, the Mint produced a whopping 12,173,000. Today the 1853 *no arrows* dime is priced about 3½ times higher than the *with arrows* version..

When the year started, our 13<sup>th</sup> president, Millard Fillmore who assumed the presidency when Zachary Taylor died in 1852 was about to turnover the reins of the office to Franklin Pierce who became the 14<sup>th</sup> President on March 4,



Millard Fillmore

and



Franklin Pierce

1853, so technically, Fillmore as president must have signed the Coinage Act of Feb. 21 which produced the *with arrows* coins you see directly above.



A better date Morgan dollar, the 1895-O certified AU-50 by NGC  
[Enlarge page to 150% to 200% to view image more clearly.]

Between 1893 and 1895, the country was in a deep recession and the usual multimillion mintages for Morgan dollars were reduced sharply. The most dollars struck in 1895 were at the New Orleans mint with a mintage of 450,000, compared with 400,000 for the pricier San Francisco issue and an unknown number of proofs in Philly that cost a fortune today. The 1895-O \$1.00 is an attractive specimen for the grade.



An 1886 Liberty nickel graded MS-62 by PCGS  
[Enlarge page to 150% to 200% to view image more clearly.]

The Liberty nickel series has four scarce dates and the 1886 issue with a mintage of 3,326,000 is the third lowest after the key date 1885 and 1912-S issues. The specimen shown "raw" was acquired back in 1991, sold as an AU-55 and submitted for certification to PCGS in 2012 where it came back in a MS-62 holder. This better date coin is lightly struck but has nice features. Grover Cleveland was celebrating his second year of his first term as 22<sup>nd</sup> president of the United States and married the lovely young 21 year old Frances Folsom.



Grover Cleveland, a bachelor at 49, married Frances Folsom, age 21 during his first term as President. On June 2, 1886



A gorgeous 1896 Barber Half dollar graded MS-63 by PCGS  
[Enlarge page to 150% to 200% to view image more clearly.]

Pictured directly above is this better date 1896 Barber half-dollar. According to numismatic scholars Ron Guth and the late David Akers, contributing consultants to PCGS's online *COINFACTS*, the 1896-P Barber half-dollar is considered the rarest Philadelphia Mint issue of the 1890s and scarcer than a number of branch mints of the series. Only 940,000 were struck at the Philadelphia mint that year compared with 924,000 at New Orleans and 1,140,948 at San Francisco and it took a while for the author to find one. The specimen not only appears radiant but is extremely well struck. In the presidential election of 1896, William McKinley, Republican of Ohio defeated William Jennings Bryan, Democrat of Nebraska to become the 25<sup>th</sup> president of the United States.



William McKinley

## AUGUSTA COIN CLUB, INC.

### MINUTES OF MEETING

November 15, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Sunrise Grill by President, Steve Nix. We had 40 members and two guests present.

#### Secretary's Report:

The October 18, 2018 minutes were not read. A copy is kept on file.

#### Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer's Report was sent by email by Stacey Plooster. We have \$11,279.95 deposited in the checking account.

#### Prize Winners:

Winner of the 50/50 raffle was Greta Erm (\$52.00). Tommy Hegler won a 2018 Silver Eagle. Skylar Plooster won a 2018 Silver Eagle.

#### Fall Coin Show Nov 16 and November 17

(Saturday) 2018: (Sold Out)

David Chism - Bourse Chairman. Our sold-out Fall Coin Show will be held at the Columbia County Exhibition Center located at the Grovetown Wal-Mart at Exit 190. David reported 75 tables were sold. Our club will not run the concession stand. David Chism reported that the dealers set up on Thursday night from 4 to 8 pm and this was a great success. Members that helped at the show, Mr. Sammy Lucky, David Chism, Steve Nix and others were greatly appreciated.

#### Show & Tell:

Jim Barry displayed a Greek *Tetradrachm* of Dionysus who was the God of the grape harvest and wine. Many Greek coins often had Gods and Goddesses on both the obverses and reverses. This particular *tetradrachm* was a coin from the island of Thasos located in the northern Aegean Sea.

**The coin's obverse** is the head of Dionysus crowned with a wreath of grapes (to the Roman Bacchus).

**The reverse** displayed Heracles (Hercules) standing holding a club and lion's skin. Killing the Nemean lion was one of his 12 laborers had to perform after murdering his wife and children in a fit of rage.

#### The Program:

Arno Safran presented a PP program on **the US Coins of the Great Depression, (1930-35).**



**The coins of 1932-P: the obverses of the Lincoln Cent, \$1.00 gold eagle and first year of Washington Quarter below (excluding the rare 1932 double eagle)**  
[Enlarge page to 150% to 200% to view image more clearly.]

The coins of that era were some of the most beautiful coins ever minted. The low mintages were due to the Great Depression with the stock market crashing October 29, 1929. The milestones of 1930 were only 4 coins minted: 1 cent, 5 cent, 10 cent, and 25 cent, (excluding the two gold coins). 1930 was the last year of the Standing Liberty quarter and Bobby Jones won the Grand Slam in Golf and. Other notable coins were 1931-1935 penny, 1932 D and S Washington quarter and of course, the 1933 \$20.00 Saint-Gaudens Double Eagle which later sold for 7.5 million. Other notable events during this time were the 1934 dust storms and the passing of Social Security in 1935.

#### The 2018 Augusta Medallion

Winner of our 2018 Augusta Coin Token is the Old Medical College of Augusta (1835). Cost is \$12.00 each. Only 75 were struck. The medallions will be struck, 25 each in copper, antique bronze and silver wash. The coins are in stock but limited.

#### Old Business:

2018 Club dues \$15.00 per year are past due. We had 2 juniors draw from the junior box of coins.

#### New Business:

Nominations for club officers were taken by our Nominating Chairman, Everett Price. The current Augusta Coin Club officers are currently unopposed but if any member cares to run for any of the positions, President Vice President Secretary, Treasure and Sgt. In Arms, please let nominating chairman Everett Price know no later than our Dec. 210 meeting because that's when we have our annual election for the following year.

Speaking of our December 20 meeting, it will consist of finger food and dessert items that members decide to bring in for everyone to enjoy.

#### Monthly Coin Auction:

Glenn Sanders ran the auction (16 lots). Skylar Plooster and Jason Gotcher delivered the goods thereby speeding up the auction. The Bids recorder was David Chism.

**Respectively Submitted,  
John Thomas Attaway**



**The Coins of 1932 (excluding the double eagle)  
The Lincoln cent and the scarce 1933-S Walking Liberty 50c**  
[Enlarge page to 150% to 200% to view image more clearly.]

## Collecting Interesting Latin American Coins

### Part One: The Central American Republic



An 1824 8 Reales of the Central American Republic  
[Enlarge page to 150% to 200% to view image more clearly.]

One of the values of the Show & Tell session at coin club meetings is the amazing numismatic items some of the members bring in to display. An unusual coin or banknote can have a tremendous influence on what persons may choose to collect.

One such coin that had a significant effect on a number of fellow numismatists at a club the author attended years ago was the magnificent Central American Republic's silver dollar sized eight *reales* shown above. The obverse displayed the sun rising behind five volcanoes, each representing one of the five nations of the confederation, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Costa Rica, its rays spreading outward across the coin with the Legend in Spanish surrounding the circumference and the bold date below. The central device on the reverse is a Ceiba tree surrounded by a motto--also in Spanish--emblematic of freedom.

The 8 *Reales* coin was struck at the Guatemala City Mint from 1824 thru 1840 although the Confederation dissolved in 1838. There were five silver denominations with primarily the same features and four gold denominations that included in addition to the *Peso*, a 2 *Reales*, 1 *Real*, half-real with just three mountains and tiny quarter *real* that had only one mountain on the obverse, also five gold denominations, the 8 *Escudo*, 4 *Escudo*, 2, *Escudo*, 1 *Escudo* and ½ *Escudo* all featuring the sun centered atop the mountains instead of rising behind them. As with our Morgan dollar, the 8 *Reales* coin is the most common with the 1824 first year of issue the easiest to acquire in high circulated grade such as the AU-55 specimen shown above.



An 1850 Central American Republic 2 Escudo gold coin  
[Enlarge page to 150% to 200% to view image more clearly.]

The author was able to acquire all denominations at much lower prices than their obsolete US type equivalents of the same period except for the rare and extremely expensive 4 and 8 *Escudo* gold pieces.

## Stocking Fillers for Christmas

There are a number of US coins that can be given as inexpensive gifts for the holidays. These include an item or set from the wonderful world of modern US commemorative issues like those displayed at our recent show on Steve and Connie Nix's table. Other fairly inexpensive stocking fillers include one of the 2018 US uncirculated or proof sets or a lower denomination bullion coin such as the 1/10 oz gold eagle and/or silver eagle which can also be found at Clein's Rare Coins and the Augusta Coin Exchange. Just inserting a beautiful 2018 silver eagle in a grandchild's stocking hanging from the fireplace may turn that youngster into a collector some day.

Finally, as we end our eighteenth year of publication, the editor thanks everyone for their condolences on the passing of his wife, Vilma and wishes you all a very Merry Christmas.

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